

REMARKS

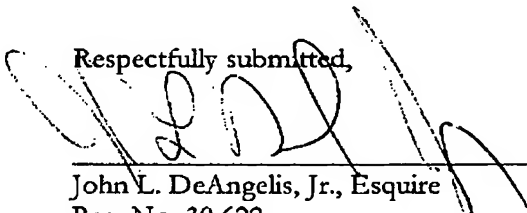
The Applicants appreciate the allowance of claim 20 and the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 5, 6, 8-10, 13 and 14. By this amendment, the Applicants propose to amend claims 5, 6, 8-10, 13 and 14 to overcome these rejections and place the application in condition for allowance. The entry of this amendment under Section 116 and the Examiner's allowance of the pending claims is earnestly solicited. Claims 1, 5, 6, 8-10, 13, 14 and 20 remain in the application.

The Applicants also propose revisions to claim 1 in an effort to distinguish the cited art. In particular, the claim now includes, "associating the oscillating frequency with the integrated circuit device, wherein the integrated circuit device can be later identified by determining the oscillating frequency." In contrast, Lovett discloses, characterizing an integrated circuit device based on device switching speed on an individual die or lot-by-lot basis by measuring frequency in a digital domain. Lovett further discloses, "Once the frequency or other operational characteristics of a particular die or group of dies is known, the dies can be sorted according to those characteristics." There is no disclosure of the Applicant's limitation of later identifying the integrated circuit device "by determining the oscillating frequency."

Since the proposed amendments overcome the current claim rejections, entry of the amendments and issuance of a Notice of Allowance for all pending claims is respectfully requested.

If a telephone conference will assist in clarifying or expediting this Amendment or the claim changes made herein, Examiner Quinto is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number below.

Respectfully submitted,


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